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Professional Development, Partner Schools Chosen for NetSCOPE Education Grant

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Professional Development, Partner Schools Chosen for NetSCOPE Education Grant

Quick Facts

- The program is designed to improve student academic achievement from kindergarten through 12th grade in area districts by strengthening teacher candidates' training in the schools.
- The partnership will involve the Rock Hill, Fort Mill, Clover, York, Lancaster County, Chester County, Fairfield County, Union County and Cherokee County school districts.



Lisa Johnson

ROCK HILL, S.C. - **Winthrop University's Richard W. Riley College of Education**, along with the nine school districts involved in a \$7.5 million **Teacher Quality Partnership Grant**, have identified the six professional development schools and 16 partner schools that will collaborate in a partnership to improve teacher effectiveness and student achievement.

The partnership will involve the Rock Hill, Fort Mill, Clover, York, Lancaster County, Chester County, Fairfield County, Union County and Cherokee County school districts.

Named **NetSCOPE for Network of Sustained, Collaborative, Ongoing Preparation for Educators**, the program is designed to improve student academic achievement from kindergarten through 12th grade in area districts by strengthening teacher candidates' training in the schools. Central to the plan is the establishment of the network of professional development and partner schools in high-need locations, so Winthrop faculty can work with teachers at those selected schools.

Winthrop was the only institution in South Carolina and one of only 28 institutions nationally to be chosen to participate in this **five-year Teacher Quality Partnership grant program** through the **U.S. Department of Education**. It is expected to bring more than \$7 million in federal funds to Winthrop.

NetSCOPE will focus on five goals: improving student academic achievement in targeted high-need schools; improving professional learning for school-university faculty and teacher candidates; strengthening the pre-baccalaureate education of teacher candidates; increasing support for new teachers in the high-need districts; and implementing ongoing, accessible school leadership programs.

Education faculty members will meet with teachers at the selected schools during a June 27-29 retreat, according to **Lisa Johnson, NetSCOPE project director**. During that time, participants will build a plan for what the partnership work will look like for the next three years.

Dr. Kristi Woodall, superintendent of **Union County schools**, said school officials are excited about the opportunity to work with Winthrop. "This partnership will benefit our teachers as they serve as mentors for teacher candidates. In addition, the quality instructional practices learned by staff members in professional development training will benefit our students," she said.

The Union school district is already reaping rewards. **Cindy Langley**, director of secondary education in Union County, said: "Five of our teachers will participate in graduate courses this summer to receive endorsements to teach Advanced Placement English Literature and Advanced Placement Government, and this fall principals will participate in a workshop to sharpen their skills in working

with teacher candidates and first-year teachers.”

In Fairfield County, **McCrorey-Liston Elementary School Principal Chandra Bell** said that as a **NetSCOPE Partner school**, she is confident that the teachers as well as the student interns will walk away from this learning experience as better educators. **Principal Lillian Potter Arnold** of Kelly Miller Elementary School, added: “My teachers consider their selection as a NetSCOPE Partner School to be a win-win situation for all - our students, our teachers and of course the pre-service teachers.”

In Rock Hill, Tammy White, principal at Sunset Park Center for Accelerated Studies, said that joining forces with Winthrop will provide her school with an opportunity to strengthen its pedagogy while simultaneously allowing her teachers to assist in the important development of new professionals.

For more information, contact the **NetSCOPE** office at 803/323-3080.

The **2010-11 NetSCOPE Partnership Network** members are:

Professional Development Schools

Buffalo Elementary School – Union County
Chester Park School of Inquiry – Chester County
Great Falls Elementary School – Chester County
Hunter Street Elementary School – York School District 1
Riverview Elementary School – Fort Mill Schools
South Middle School – Lancaster County

Partner Schools

Alma Elementary School – Cherokee County
Buford Middle School – Lancaster County
Chester Park Center of Literacy through Technology – Chester County
Cottonbelt Elementary School – York School District 1
Foster Park Elementary School – Union County
Gold Hill Elementary School – Fort Mill Schools
Great Falls High School – Chester County
India Hook Elementary School – Rock Hill Schools
Indian Land Middle School – Lancaster County
Jonesville Elementary/Middle School – Union County
Kelly Miller Elementary School – Fairfield County
McCrorey-Liston Elementary School – Fairfield County
Monarch Elementary School – Union County
Springfield Middle School – Fort Mill Schools
Sunset Park Center for Accelerated Studies – Rock Hill Schools
York Middle School – York School District 1

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